



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

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Program: **Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2**      Date: March 19, 2004

APHIS has confirmed the presence of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 (Rsr3b2) in five samples collected from two greenhouses at the Goldsmith Plants, Inc. Guatemala facility. The samples, all from Americana Bright Red, were determined to be infected by Rsr3b2. The bacterium was also identified by a University of Wisconsin researcher in geranium stem tissue samples collected from latently infected geraniums in Guatemala and provided by APHIS. APHIS continues work toward developing and validating a non-destructive water sampling system to detect early infestations of Rsr3b2 in geranium production facilities with the intent of having a deployable test in place later in 2004.

All held facilities in the United States have now been released. Nationally, 41 states had a total of 471 suspect facilities, no facilities are currently being held. Through March 17, control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) were completed at 453 facilities and all 471 facilities were released; facilities did not require a control action if they did not have suspect plants. More than 2.1 million cuttings or plants have been destroyed.

The 2004 *Ralstonia* action plan is available at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/ralstonia/rasltoniaactionplanv4web.pdf>

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